

## **REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiner for a thorough review of the pending patent application. In this paper, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 12-14, 28-33 and 35. Applicants have amended Claims 2, 4-8, 10, 11, 18, 19, 23, 25-27, 34, 36 and 38. Applicants have added new Claims 39-47.

The Examiner has rejected the original Claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,330,893 to O'Connell. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The O'Connell reference fails to disclose a funnel portion at the end of a filler tube for receiving a funnel insert. Rather, O'Connell shows a tube member 24 operable to receive a funnel member 8, which in turn is operable to receive a nozzle receptor 12. Thus, O'Connell fails to disclose connecting a funnel insert to a funnel portion formed at the end of a filler tube.

To better claim the invention, Applicants have submitted new independent claims. These claims define over the prior art cited by the Examiner and should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office

Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Sept. 28, 2004

By:   
Michael Malinzak, Reg. No. 43,770

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

MM:ca